

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

19th Karkadagam 1104.
Saturday, the _____
3rd August 1929.

The House met at Halfpast Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. E. Ikkanda Warriar, S. S. Koder, I. Raman Menon and A. B. Salem were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Watchers and Tanadars in the Forest Department.

151. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) why the allowance of Rs. 2 given to watchers and tanadars of the Forest Department was stopped from Kumbham 1104 onwards ?

(b) was such allowance stopped in the case of any other menial servants ;

(c) if so, who are they ;

(d) and from which date it was stopped ?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—(a) The special allowance sanctioned by Government could be given only to those low-paid servants whose pay was debited to ' Establishment ' as against ' Works ' or ' Contingencies '.

The watchers and tanadars were being paid by debit to ' Conservancy and works ' and hence they were ineligible for the allowance. The grant of the allowance having been ordered in Kumbham 1103, with retrospective effect from 1st Chingam 1103, the Conservator drew and paid the allowance to them by mistake for the whole of 1103. Though the Comptroller objected to the payments, the recovery was waived as a matter of concession. But further payments were stopped from 1st Chingam 1104 and not 1st Kumbham 1104 as stated in the question.

(b) Yes.

(c) Temporary mahouts, flood-watchers and crane mate so far as Forest Department is concerned and menials of all other Departments whose pay was increased to Rs. 10 as per His Highness' Birthday Announcement.

(d) From 1st Chingam 1104, in respect of officers of the Forest Department referred to in sub-question (c) and for reasons stated against sub-question (a) and from 28th Kanni 1104, in respect of others.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What were the reasons which prompted the Government to give this allowance to the low-paid officers?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Government thought that the pay then available to them was not sufficient and the scheme of reorganisation was in contemplation of the Special Finance Committee. Pending that, Government ordered that a special allowance may be given to the low-paid servants.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why was it stopped afterwards?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—This allowance was not stopped. In this case, the allowance was drawn for 1103 and paid off. The Comptroller objected to the same. According to the Government Order, that had to be refunded, they having drawn the amount and paid it off. Considering that the amount was paid away, the refund was waived as a special case.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it stated in the Government Order who are the low-paid officers who are to be paid this allowance? May I know what is the order to give these allowances?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—The order reads: "In the Diwan's Circular C. No. 817/04, dated 16th October 1928, it was ordered that those Government servants who will be entitled to get the enhanced rate of pay sanctioned in the Diwan's Proceedings C. No. 817/1104, dated 13th October 1928, will not be entitled to the special allowance now granted to low-paid servants. This restriction applies to those on new Rs. 10 only, while those on old Rs. 10 will continue to get the special allowance. In order to ascertain in audit which all men on Rs. 10 are entitled to the special allowance and which are not, all drawing officers are directed to show in establishment bills old Rs. 10 and new Rs. 10 separately."

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There it is not stated that these tanadars and watchers are not to be paid this allowance.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Yes. This allowance is to be given only to those who are in the establishment. These tanadars and watchers are not in the establishment. So they are not entitled to this allowance. Here, in their case, their remuneration is to be paid out of the works. Their remuneration is appropriated out of the several works done, and such amount is not debited to establishment, but to those particular works only, sanctioned from time to time.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it stated that the tanadars and watchers are not eligible?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—The Government Order applies only to those who are in the establishment, and since these, have explained, are not in the establishment, their pay is met as contingent charges.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this matter brought to the notice of the Government that these people are not paid?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the reply of the Government?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Government said that they were not eligible for the allowance.

Hill Allowance.

152. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any hill allowance is sanctioned to the officers of the Public Works Department ;

(b) whether any hill allowance is sanctioned to the Conservator of Forests ;

(c) whether any hill allowance is sanctioned to the Tramway Engineer ;

(d) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative and the answer to (b) or (c) is in the negative, what is the reason for this differential treatment ?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—(a) There is no officer in the Public Works Department who is given a hill allowance.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know whether any hill tract allowance is given to any of the officers of the Public Works Department? Whether any allowance is given to officers when they go from Chalakkudi to Parambikulam?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—They are entitled to the allowance according to *the Code*.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So is any allowance given?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—They are entitled to allowance according to *the Code*. There is a rule in *the Code*. The rule is "First class officers will be entitled to mileage, etc. They are entitled to draw besides a local allowance of 50 per cent of their salary." So according to the rules they are paid. There is nothing like hill allowance.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In that case, may I know whether the Tramway Engineer is also paid in the same way?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—No. You were talking of